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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Monday November 22, 1976

CI NIDC 76-273C

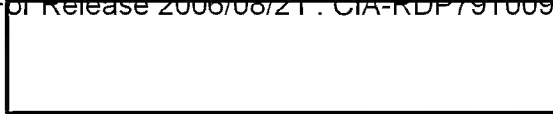
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday, November 22, 1976

[Redacted]

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON: Situation Report

[] The Syrian-dominated Arab peacekeeping forces entered^{25X1} the Lebanese port cities of Tripoli and Sidon without incident yesterday morning. An advance contingent of the security force reportedly also occupied the oil refinery south of Sidon.

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[] Another Syrian brigade of more than 3,000 men entered^{25X1} Lebanon on Friday, presumably in support of the move into Tripoli and Sidon. Additional troops from the United Arab Emirates and a small unidentified unit arrived in Damascus last week and are expected to enter Lebanon soon.

[] According to leftist- and government-controlled radio^{25X1} broadcasts, the Arab security-force command announced on Saturday that peacekeeping units will begin confiscating heavy weapons and military vehicles and arresting persons bearing arms. Christians, Palestinians, and Lebanese leftists will resist this move and have already begun caching heavy weapons to avoid confiscation.

[] In southern Lebanon, artillery exchanges continue to^{25X1} be reported between the Palestinian- and leftist-controlled town of Bint Jubayl and the Christian-held village of Ayn Ibil. Various Lebanese political and religious leaders have expressed concern about the continuing tension in the south; Lebanese leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt has urged that Arab peacekeeping troops be deployed in the area. So far, Syria has avoided sending troops into the far south because of Israeli sensitivity^{25X1} about the border area.

[] On Friday night, Fatah guerrillas fired across the^{25X1} southeastern Lebanese border at an Israeli army patrol. This was the first such incident in several months. According to press reports from Tel Aviv, there were no Israeli casualties during the brief exchange of fire; media treatment of the incident has been relatively low-key.

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